



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

NOVEMBER 2012 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 11

\$1

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Controversy and vision at Groundcover



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

No longer in infancy, we at Groundcover are reckoning who we are in the community, who we want to be, and how we want our identity portrayed. We are now in our third year of publication, and are an accepted and often welcomed aspect of downtown life in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Our circulation figures grew impressively this year and many of our long-time vendors have been able to get and maintain housing.

More business owners and churches are granting Groundcover vendors permission to sell on their private property. Many of them go out of their

way to offer their vendors beverages and a place to sit. We have also had the depressing situation in which one hostile store owner caused our vendor to lose the privilege of selling near the door of a local mini-mall.

I occasionally get complaints about interactions with one of our vendors and the complaints are often valid. The vendor, usually anxious because they are new or tired and failing to meet their financial deadlines, says something snippy or overly personal.

Much more often, people tell me our vendors are too passive, that they need to practice active selling. Or, they tell me how much they enjoy their interactions with whomever their regular salesperson is, emphasizing how charming and good-natured they are.

Judges on back side of ballot

by Laurie Lounsbury
Groundcover Contributor

I confess – there have been many, many elections where I went to vote and didn't know a thing about the people running for judicial positions.

So I voted according to yard signs I'd seen in my friends' yards, figuring if they supported a certain person for circuit court judge, then I'd trust their opinion.

Another reason I never gave much thought to voting for a judge is because judicial races are nonpartisan. We, the voting public, are apparently not supposed to know which way a judicial candidate might lean. Because of the nature of a judge's work, they are supposed to be completely above partisan politics.

In the past, I never went to a candidate forum for judges and actually learned what was at stake. Shame on me for not understanding how critically important it is to vote your ballot all the way down through the judges.

I'm not making that mistake again.

In Washtenaw County, we have two candidates running to serve as Circuit Court Judge. One is Carol Kuhnke, the other is Jim Fink. There is a world of difference between these two candidates.

Kuhnke is a pro-choice Democrat who is endorsed by United Auto Workers and Huron Valley Central Labor Council. She's a supporter of gay rights and backed by LGBT organizations in the county and state.

Fink doesn't openly say what his

The negative and positive comments are often about the same people. Sometimes they even reflect opposite reactions to the same comment!

Interacting with strangers is hard, especially when you have only a few seconds to get their attention. Salespeople never intentionally alienate potential customers, but they are people, with real feelings, that do get hurt. They are sometimes accosted by others who assume that because they are selling Groundcover, they are open to prostitution, abusers of alcohol or drugs, or mentally deficient. While we coach vendors to react calmly, the limbic system sometimes overpowers the rest of the brain. Even so, there have been no acts of violence and there is rarely a need for outside intervention, though loyal customers and bystanders

political party is, but leans Republican. He is pro-life and is endorsed by Right to Life Michigan. I do know that, in order to get an endorsement from Right to Life Michigan, you have to be 100 percent committed to an anti-abortion stance except in cases where the life of the mother is threatened.

So why should that matter if judges are supposed to be nonpartisan?

Here's one reason why: circuit court judges are the people who decide if young women under the age of majority can be allowed to have an abortion. Sadly, many young women are unable to discuss this with their parents. Perhaps they live in an abusive situation. Perhaps they were victims of incest. Perhaps they were raped and are afraid to report it.

Whatever the case, these young women are forced, in the state of Michigan, to plead their case to a circuit court judge. If that judge is pro-life, do you think he's going to grant that young woman the right to make her own private decisions about her health and her future? Not if he's been endorsed by Right to Life Michigan.

Perhaps a woman's right to choose her own destiny isn't of much concern to you.

Maybe you think experience is what matters when selecting a judge.

Both Kuhnke and Fink have experience. Kuhnke's experience happens to be in circuit courts, representing working class people. Fink worked as a law enforcement officer and then as a lawyer in private practice, handling landlord-tenant matters, real estate law and commercial transactions.

often step in on behalf of our vendors.

It is unfortunate that one person with an axe to grind often has the power to affect the lives of many. We applaud those store owners and managers who have heard the occasional customer complaint, relayed it to us, and still been supportive of our vendors, and we hope that others will follow their example. When we get a specific complaint, it becomes a learning opportunity for the people directly involved and others. We have seen great personal growth in our vendors and know this comes from productive conversations they have had with us, with their customers, and with the business community.

Our vendors continue to develop their professionalism and skills. Many of our

see GROUNDCOVER'S FUTURE, p. 3

Change, change, change



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Pastor, Bethlehem United Church of Christ

As November opens, we are half way between the fall equinox and the winter solstice. Change is upon us and happening quickly. Each day is a new adventure. For many it is a hard time of year as colors fade, leaves drop, and temperatures diminish. It is easy to be judgmental when our lives like the season around us sustain one sharp change after another. There is a common assumption in our culture that when we have our lives under control, much of the change that would

twist and turn us inside out can be held at bay. Such control is often an illusion.

Quotes on change are a dime a dozen. Many of them fall into the category of reminding us that change rather than a steady status quo is the way of all life and we are wise to figure that out as soon as we can. The Dalai Lama offers another perspective on the reality of ongoing and unfolding change. His is a view with a twinge of expectation rather than resignation. His words are ones that have caught my attention currently. I wish I had heard them years ago when the changes in my life were snowballing. I would have appreciated then, as I do now, the gentleness of the Dalai Lama's simple statement: "*Change is part of the world. Until the last moment anything is possible.*"

Visioning Groundcover's future

continued from page 2

vendors are now selling advertising to local businesses, adding to their income and their marketable skills. At a recent seminar on selling advertising, it was immediately obvious that the vendors have become seasoned sales professionals who put a lot of thought into how they present themselves and address the public.

They regularly attend job fairs and apply for those jobs they are qualified for and able to get to. Many of those who used to sell Groundcover applied their earnings to improve their employability and are now working in the mainstream economy.

We are putting out our first holiday item, *Best of Groundcover*. It is an anthology of reader-selected pieces from Groundcover's inception in July of 2010 through September of 2012. It sprang from a vendor's observation of how sad it is that our newer readers never got a chance to read articles in the early issues.

Groundcover has expanded into Dexter and Pittsfield Township. Our sales

permit request for Ypsilanti Township was recently denied. Reactions to Ypsilanti Township's decision yielded some revelations about who we have become in the community.

The media and many of our customers were very concerned about the permit denial. Online coverage offered the opportunity to comment and it became obvious that many in the county range from totally unaware of Groundcover to vaguely aware and uncomfortable about it, believing it to be a variation on panhandling.

It is obvious we have a lot more educating to do.

As to where we are going, we asked volunteers and vendors to share their vision for Groundcover over the next two years. They responded as follows: more awareness and celebration events, more vendors, more pages, more frequency of production, more expansion into the rest of Washtenaw County; collaboration with other papers, organizations, university departments and companies; a paid staff; a surer pathway to permanent

The Groundcover News community is filled with folks familiar with change. A variety of circumstances and choices have left some of us starting over after a series of losses, maybe even more than once. It takes guts, determination, and a sturdy thread of hope to begin again. As this November rolls around, I am going to suggest that we approach the changes we face now in the company of the Dalai Lama's words. Dare we expect that possibility always remains?

Back when I was in my season of snowballing change, a good friend of mine had a single question for me. She was a direct, no nonsense high school guidance counselor. Whenever I was about to buckle underneath my load of uncertainty, she said to me: "Remember your life a year ago today. Is it better or worse now?" Each time she asked

me that, there was some evidence of possibility coming to be that wasn't there twelve months before. Small or large, that evidence helped me to stick it out with the flow of changes less fearfully and with more interest in what might be almost here. Thinking back on her question now, it aligned well with the Dalai Lama's sentiment on change.

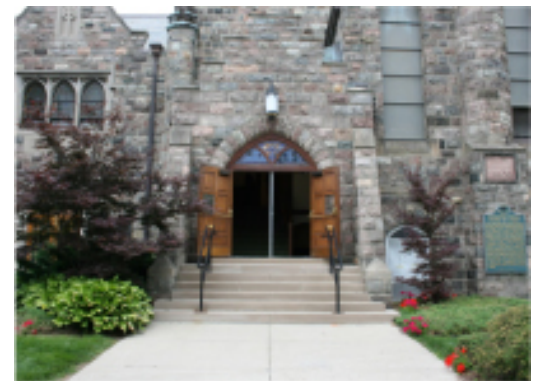
In ancient Celtic culture, November 1st was New Year's Day, a good time to switch perspectives and embark on something new. And so if too much change is your welcome or unwelcome companion at the moment, pause briefly with what the Dalai Lama had to say about such change. Could it be that on the other side of it all, anything is possible? And might that anything be worth working toward, waiting for, and welcoming when it arrives?

and stable employment; recognition from the community that selling Groundcover is a job; clearer procedures; and participating in the Downtown Development Authority Spring Cleanup.

Look for us selling and marketing beyond the cities. Expect us to deepen our engagement within the downtown areas. Look for our holiday anthology, *Best of Groundcover*, comprised of

reader-suggested pieces from our first two-and-a-quarter years.

To share your vision for Groundcover or to weigh in on which articles we should include in *Best of Groundcover*, visit our Facebook page – facebook.com/groundcover – and leave us a comment or send a message. As always, we so appreciate your patronage and participation.



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(between William and Packard)

www.bethlehem-ucc.org (734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is home for the Groundcover Office

Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship
10:00 am ~ Church School

Upcoming Events:

November 9 ~ Bazaar and Luncheon
Public Welcome
10:00 am ~ 2:00 pm
Luncheon served 11:30 am ~ 1:00 pm
Advance tickets \$10 for beef, turkey or salad only
November 16 ~ Parking Lot Pretzels
(Sale begins at noon)
November 22 and 23
Office and building closed for Thanksgiving

an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy

GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Veteran brings service values to business

by La Shawn Courtwright
Groundcover Vendor

This month Groundcover News is highlighting veterans and their personal experiences in the service of our country, The United States of America, both combat and non-combat vets. Mr. Johnnie Rush is truly a legend in our community and being a vet is part of his legacy.

Rush came north to escape the oppressive ways of the south for blacks during the 1950s.

Rush was attending Michigan State Normal College, now recognized as Eastern Michigan University, at the age of 20. He worked at the Union as a short-order cook under the supervision of George Polander. He was an active R.O.T.C. participant when he was drafted into the army at the age of 22.

Had Rush been able to complete his R.O.T.C. training, he would have entered the army as a lieutenant, a commissioned officer. He was drafted for the Korean War in 1954. He was stationed at Camp Chaffee in Fort Smith, Arkansas for his 6-week AIT (advanced individual training) then deployed to Neu-Ulm, Germany with the 273rd artillery, residing among about 80 other men in his camp. His unit specialized in ground weapons.

When Rush was not assuming official army duties, he enjoyed running track and participating in the activities of the 35th group boxing team. He notes that this was also a way of remaining fit and a constructive way to use his personal time. He maintained a TDY (temporary duty) Social Visa to travel about Europe as a part of his privileges. A few of the places he visited were Nuremberg and Stuttgart, Germany and Florence, Italy. Mr. Rush was among the numerous veterans who did not see combat in this war.

During this era of American history, there was great racial tension, especially for African-American men in authoritative positions. Rush actively faced these challenges in the day-room



Johnnie Rush attended the Michigan Barber College on the G.I. Bill. His Johnnie Rush Barber Shop on Broadway has served customers for 51 years.

or boxing ring, where soldiers settled their differences with their fists.

In active duty, he says that it was uncomfortable at times to conform to taking orders, not understanding the reasoning behind this new set of rules for survival. He adjusted and kept a positive outlook instead. Most of all, Mr. Rush avoided conflict and racial peer pressure.

Rush was honorably discharged from the service in 1956. He married in 1957 and began his family-life. He used his G.I. Bill funds towards the purchase of his first home and for a degree from the Michigan Barber College, then located on St. Antoine and East Adams in Detroit, and also took classes at Washtenaw Community College.

He began his business as a barber in 1961 and has remained in the

business for over 51 years. The Johnnie Rush Barber Shop is located at 1031 Broadway in Ann Arbor. Rush provided occupational training to the Maxey Boys Training School of Brighton, Michigan in 2008. He offered them discount haircuts and offers discount services to veterans today.

Rush worked at the 3rd Canteen Shop in the V.A. Hospital in 1982 and 1983. He's also assisted fellow veterans in acquiring the benefits to which they were entitled, which he finds greatly satisfying.

Rush credits the service with developing some of his strongest attributes. He says that his service to his country has given him discipline, perseverance, and independence, and it has elevated his foundation as a man. It has also strengthened his family life, mental clarity, self-inventory, communications, temperament, and ability to contribute to the lives of those around him. He has a more positive attitude because he listens and applies what he has learned, and says these things strengthen his spirituality.

He is very regimented and of sound mind and practice, but he always greets you with a smile, and before you exit his presence, Rush will make you laugh. He feels as though military service can also be a good experience for men today who may lack adequate financial resources to fund a home, further education, and family preparation. "The army helped me a lot," he claims – and if he had to do it all over again, he would not change his experience.

Enjoy the witty wisdom of the Swami? Sign up for his daily laughsitive at www.wakeuplaughing.com and come see him this spring at our Groundcover benefit.

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— SWAMI BEYONDANADA

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m.i.a.
by Karen L. Totten

The bracelet always hung loose around my wrist, silver, with a name etched in block letters, dangling as I wrote out equations, clasp catching on the sleeve of every sweater. Missing in action, Michelle said, as though he was in mid-sprint down the Ho Chi Minh trail, then, suddenly, vanished. Wear it until he returns, she said.

The war stumbled on. Every night body counts on the news. Not an unnamed soldier though unknown to me – so I imagined him a possible family, a favorite cake, the way his face looked in moonlight. And did he look often at the moon, dreaming of home, wondering if he'd ever leave the jungle and get back to Pittsburgh or Topeka on the fragrant hills of Tennessee?

His name never did show up on the rosters. I've kept the bracelet in a box. Sometimes I pull it out and look at it: the metal still gleams though the name has rubbed pale. He's with me still – a sliver of moonlight tattooed around my wrist. I close my eyes. I can smell the sweet grass blown by the wind. See, he's running full out down the hillside.

William Said

by Karen L. Totten

Star Spangled nation, tell me about the brave:
William said, "It was so dark among and around those trees. Another humid night. L. and I smoked cigarettes under the bed rolls. Chancy if Sarge caught us, but I needed that smoke in my lungs, that hot flash of the matchhead, the smell.
Then, it was light everywhere. Light came up off the ground. Rocket fire in explosive bursts. I couldn't count how many. 'Run!' I yelled to L., but he didn't run. 'Come on!' but he didn't move. I reached for my rifle, then grabbed L. by the shoulder.
Easily as a log rolling over in a fire, he turned onto his back. And just like the log, the fire had etched away his face and chest. He face was — shit, just say it — his face was gone. I yanked at him but he was dead. Standing, I grabbed him and lifted, but something seared my calf. I knelt down in the mud.
We kept our guard. All night.
That's how they found us, my rifle in the rubble of the tent, me kneeling at the side of L., weeping."

Many thanks



by Rissa Haynes
Contributor

Groundcover patrons are the best! My colleagues agree! When we gather on Thursdays or just in passing conversations, we exchange many stories of the generosity of the Groundcover patrons. These people month after month look for us to buy our newspaper and support our business efforts. My sentiments for my customers were expressed in my article written in the May 2011 Groundcover issue; however, what I thought was an important line never made the press: "Whether the monetary donation is \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 or

more or less, ALL of my customers to me are a perfect 10."

It's not just the money, although that is the initial reason we become vendors; it's also the encouragement and friendships that are developed from this honest exchange and communication with you. Personally, I've been propelled even closer to realizing my worthwhile goals and dreams as a result of being a Groundcover vendor.

Many thanks to you, my customers who visit me at The People's Food Co-op, you who are members of St. Francis of Assisi, Bethlehem UCC, the Back Door Food Pantry, Pastor Duke of the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor (who will buy his paper from only me), my Groundcover subscribers, The Creamery on Jackson Road, Woman-SafeHealth, Edible Arrangements, and TeaHaus.

And Susan Beckett, the Groundcover News (GCN) publisher, deserves much praise and gratitude from us all. She works hard, reminding me of Olympic

Curling – a winter Olympic sport where a discus is propelled onto the ice while a team member sweeps and clears the debris from its path to help the disc go as long a distance as possible. Susan reminds me of that sport, as she gets to know her staff and sales team, their dreams and goals, she then goes to work using her talents resourcefulness and research skills to clear paths so that her GCN workers can go to work reaching their worthwhile goals and aspirations. She's much like the mother hen and the mother eagle.

Gathering her GCN crew close while encouraging them to develop their own wings by making the nest uncomfortable and pushing them out to fly, using her "Curling" athleticism to help them go as far as possible. Hence, not only should we all thank her for the relentless tenacity she used to start this newspaper in the Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County area, but we also all should be grateful and thank her for the many tasks she accomplishes to make Groundcover News a viable publication and to provide the serendipities of being associated with Groundcover News.

The serendipities of the Groundcover association include internships for col-

lege volunteers and a matched savings program available for the vendors. Realizing that many of the vendors were in need of social work advocates, Susan has social work grad students from U-M doing internships and a supervising MSW working to assist her vendors as needed. Furthermore, she has consulted legal services and law students on legal issues, and spent her time and money personally lobbying politicians on issues that directly affect vendors and the situations that often place them in "catch-22" positions.

I have much love, respect and gratitude for Susan Beckett. She is not the type of person that toots her own horn. She is the type of person that works hard helping others, making peace, and making a difference in life for herself and others. Observing her in action one day, I asked her, "What makes you tick?" Thoughtfully she replied, "When I was dining at a cafe in Washington, D.C., an old guy came by our table and asked for our leftover food. He ate my leftover piece of burger using my fork!" For Susan, it is watching people make desperate stabs at surviving that motivates her to make a difference. Susan Beckett does make a difference for many and for ALL of us at Groundcover News.

Letters Home ArtPrize exhibit

by Susan Beckett

Local artists Susan Clinthorne and Sally Thielen entered their work, Searching for the Key / Letters Home, in the Grand Rapids ArtPrize competition this year. The exhibit, housed in its own room in the Fountain Street Church, contained cutouts and artifacts of homeless people that provide a window into the world of life on the streets.

“Our mission is to give a face and voice to the homeless,” said Clinthorne. “We hope to raise awareness and generate solutions. Also, we hope to give the opportunity for the viewer to confront their own assumptions and decision-making process about those in need.”

Many of the exhibit’s vignettes feature veterans.

Clinthorne explained, “As we began to do research and talk with those who are homeless, we came to see that a disproportionate number are veterans. We feel it is important to highlight this issue. We have also learned that there are many reasons for homelessness ranging from lack of affordable housing, PTSD, mental illness, job loss, substance abuse, social security issues, and the list goes on.

“It was the first year for Sally and me to exhibit at ArtPrize in any capacity. It was a fabulous venue for raising awareness because thousands of people came through our exhibit. We were able to

Offer me work, please!



by James Manning
Groundcover
Vendor

Ever since I came to this town I have made many attempts finding employment, and for the most part, arrived at failure. Any work, any odd job, is the greatest blessing you can give an impoverished person who is willing to work. Unfortunately, the average person, including the typical employer, has a lot to learn about the various mind sets and ideologies found in the homeless community. It is a vast misconception that all homeless individuals are just lazy. This is a very false belief as well as one more excuse for the condemnation of lower-class citizens.

True, many homeless individuals turn to panhandling and canning for their day-to-day income. We do not wish to go door-to-door mainly because we prefer to avoid legal trouble, plus it’s not



The Searching for the Key/Letters Home exhibit by local artists impacted viewers at last month’s ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. It’s coming to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Ann Arbor this month.

spend a lot of time with the exhibit and explain our mission and the participation of homeless individuals. The theme of Fountain Street Church was “Art to Change the World” – a perfect match for us.

“A highlight of the experience was having our artwork being included in a discussion by the Western Michigan

Chapter of the ACLU. In this discussion, Mayor George Heartwell of Grand Rapids chose to speak about Searching for the Key / Letters Home and he found it a powerful and moving exhibition.

The exhibition gained an even larger audience through a live interview in the studio of MLive Grand Rapids,” Clinthorne said.

but what is overlooked is that I’m not just willing to work – I really want to! Plus, those who want to work are gonna work pretty hard, right? We all win, everyone’s happy; you get the point.

It is certain that jobs are at a minimum availability for the lower-class citizen. For the homeless individual, chances are even lower. Many of us would get a job if we did not face so much discrimination trying to find one. It’s an unwritten law that it is taboo to employ a homeless individual and this mind set has got to go. Otherwise, our road of hardships will stretch on further than necessary. We are all around you. Potential, hardworking employees who would show up on time and ready to work.

With winter coming up, you can avoid getting charged some ridiculous amount of money from some plowing agency. A homeless individual would gladly shovel your drive and walkway for five or ten dollars. Yes, I’m homeless,

Washtenaw County residents will have two opportunities to view the work locally this month. It will be showing mid-month at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, and a smaller portion of the work will be on display at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church from November 1 through Thanksgiving.



The League of Women Voters

by Karen Totten and Ken Uehara

Education is paramount at the Ann Arbor chapter of the League of Women Voters. So is working to ensure that voters are registered and maintain their voting rights so that voting is convenient and accessible to everyone.

Recently, a Groundcover news reporter sat down with the Ann Arbor chapter President Nancy Schewe to discuss the upcoming Presidential election. Schewe, a retired teacher who became involved with the League 6 years ago, stated the local League has a long history of working to educate area residents on issues and candidates important to elections in Ann Arbor, the state of Michigan and nationwide.

Right now, voters suppression activity is happening in Michigan, Schewe pointed out. “The Secretary of State [Republican Ruth Johnson] is insisting upon putting a line on the ballot request you fill out as you stand in line at the polls that asks if you are a citizen. For many people this doesn’t seem like much, but it could be used for intimidation.”

Schewe explained that for some people this question might lead them not



Nancy Schewe, president of the Ann Arbor Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

to vote, fearful that their citizenship might be challenged or that they might have to show citizenship papers each time they cast a ballot. The appropriate place for that question is on the initial registration form, Schewe noted. A lawsuit was filed on September 20 to prevent the Secretary of State from adding the citizenship line.

Another League issue of current importance is pushing to make voting

more convenient, through addition of Saturday hours, for example. As the recent Ohio court proceedings regarding standardization throughout the state for extended voting showed, this is a mechanism for making voting more inclusive, especially of non-professional workers who have little flexibility in their work schedules.

The League does careful study of issues before committing to a position. The group implements a consensus process which allows for time to carefully study a matter and for a variety of views to be aired. “We maintain a nonpartisan status,” Schewe noted. “We never endorse candidates, wear political party clothing at League events, or attend political rallies as an official group.”

They are also careful not to take positions that are not endorsed at the state and national League level. “It protects our reputation,” Schewe said, “and that’s one of the main things we have; people know that if we hold a debate, it will be fair to everybody. People trust us.” So much, in fact, Schewe noted, that at Art Fair, many people stopped by the LWV booth to say they wished the League was still producing the presidential debates.

The local chapter of the League has about 85 members, mostly women,

though some men do join. That number is down from the 1960s, Schewe noted, when there were hundreds and hundreds of members. “Back in the 60s there were fewer options for women to become involved, and now, times have changed.”

Schewe lamented that sometimes people tend to see League members as suffragettes. Those early voting battles were essential, but women have moved on. “That is an old image,” she said, and the new League of 2012 is involved in new issues and new ideas, offering positions on everything from national defense and children’s education to women’s healthcare.

For the 2012 election, the League of Women Voters hosted a group of candidate forums. Forum information is available on CTN-TV. There is also an online voter guide called Vote411 available at the League website: www.lwvannarbor.org. Visitors to the site can click on the guide and receive comparative information on candidates on the local ballot. A sample ballot can also be printed, listing designated preferences on candidates and proposals to take along to the polls on November 6, Election Day. Also on the site is a help line phone number one can call in case one encounters problems at the polls.



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1	4		6				2	
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2		6						4
9			1					
8				3				5
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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Cryptoquote

ZRMBM UO PWM FLA ZRLZ UO PDBO.

ZRLWIOEUYUWE FLA UO ZRM PWM FLA ZRLZ UO

HDBMKA LNMBUTLW. — P. RMWBA

$E = V$
Hint: $A = Y$

ACROSS

Veterans Day Quotes — Who Said Them?

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74				75					76			

1. Young one

5. Measuring device

10. Apple chief

14. Curved molding

15. Concur

16. Wrongdoing

17. "We can't all be heroes because someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by."

19. Festival

20. Run off

21. _____ Ar Kung-Fu, video game

22. Actor MacMurray

23. Condensation

24. Unused

27. Roof part

29. Ambush

31. Rant

35. Film _____

39. Ancient goddess

41. Land mass

42. Greek letter

43. Holocene or Pleistocene

45. Cooking pot

46. Winter wear

48. Okay

49. Comedian Louis and family

50. Used a horn

52. Asian garment

54. Sibling

56. Scribe's need

57. Metal

60. Put away

63. Decompose

65. Old one

67. Constellation

68. "Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him."

71. Restaurant

72. Large bird

73. Television producer Griffin

74. Jamaican Olympian Hemmings

75. Not verbose

76. Comedian Johnson

DOWN

1. Geniuncted

2. Nimble

3. Less than

4. Loud cry

5. Chairman

6. Breakfast food

7. I three

8. Peculiar

9. Adjust the position of

10. "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

11. At an end

12. Use one's incisors

13. Vehicle with no wheels

18. Broadway musical

25. North American lake

26. Insects

28. Edward _____, British king 1901-1910

30. Devout

32. Partner

33. Editor's mark

34. Greek letters

35. Flounder

36. Deranged (slang)

37. Dash _____, Iran

38. "In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot."

40. Bit of waste

44. At this place

47. Several

51. Instruct

53. Move slowly

55. Black (French)

57. Tall structure

58. Not volatile

59. Fearlessness

60. Nile wetlands

61. Pine

62. Northern capital

64. Russian leader

66. Capitale d'Italie

69. Printer's units of measure

70. Originally named

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond

What would you do?

A participatory poverty simulation event. Audience members will collectively decide how to deal with each of the choices faced by a person who faces the challenge of living in poverty and keeping their housing. How the simulation unfolds will vary based on the course taken by the audience.

food ?

child care?

rent ?

flat tire?

SPENT \$\$\$

Sponsored By: WHA ICPJ RAAH United Way

For more information call the Washtenaw Housing Alliance 734-222-3575

Panel to Follow
Tuesday November 13 @ 7pm
Michigan Theater

Homelessness Awareness Week

Interactive poverty simulation: excruciating choices

Spent, a participatory poverty simulation event at the Michigan Theater Screening Room, headlines local Homeless Awareness Week events, and takes place November 13. Audience members will collectively decide how to deal with each of the choices faced by a prototypical person who faces the challenge of living in poverty and keeping their housing. How the simulation unfolds will vary based on the course taken by the audience.

A panel discussion about the realities here in Washtenaw County will be presented following the simulation.

The event sponsors – the Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA), Religious Action for Affordable Housing (RAAH), the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ), and the Washtenaw County United Way – hope the audience will gain deeper insight into the dilemmas facing the unhoused and more appreciation for the kinds of solutions that would provide viable choices.

The simulation is free and open to the public, and will start at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13.

What the kindly researcher did not ask

by Marie Burnett
Formerly homeless person

home was a place a place I did not want to remember to remember is hard like a rock is to suffer stuck in your shoe when you can't stop walking back and forth trying to decide which way to go if going is something you could do could still do if you could stand, still like a rock

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Solutions on page 11

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.

I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.

I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.

I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.

I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcov-

er News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.

I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.

I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.

I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.

I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.

I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: contact@groundcovernews.com 734-972-0926

November Calendar of Events

November 1-16 – Photo Exhibit:
"Every Place: The Foreclosure Crisis in 12 Neighborhoods," 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (M-F). Cleveland-based photographer Charles J. Mintz explores the effects of foreclosure on specific dwellings. Argus I Building Museum, 525 W. William, Ann Arbor. More info: call (734) 769-0770.

November 2 – Avalon Housing's 20th Anniversary Gala: "Opening Doors to End Homelessness," 6-9 p.m. Strolling buffet, live jazz, Avalon tenant art exhibit, and silent auction featuring the work of local artists. \$75 registration, two-thirds of which goes to charity. 117 W. Liberty, Ann Arbor. More info: www.avalonhousing.org, or call (734) 994-8004 x101.

November 6/13/20/27 – Tuesday Resume Clinics, 9-11 a.m. Learn how to construct a resume and receive professional advice and editing. Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Career Transition Center, Key Bank Building, 2nd Floor, 301 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti. More info: call (734) 544-6799; TDD (800) 649-3777.

November 7 - December 24 – Whole Foods Market Grab & Give, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Whole Foods and Food Gatherers team up to fight hunger. Give a cash or food donation of any amount while in Whole Foods stores. All donations go to Food Gatherers. More info: www.foodgatherers.org.

November 11-17 – Homelessness Awareness Week. Events throughout Ann Arbor; details TBA. More info: www.soscs.org.

November 12-21 – Busch's Season of Sharing, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Busch's Market and Food Gatherers team up to fight hunger. Give a cash or food donation of any amount while in Busch's stores. All donations go to Food Gatherers. More info: www.foodgatherers.org.

November 13 – "SPENT" Interactive, 7 p.m. Participatory poverty simulation will challenge audience members to collectively decide the fate of a person living in poverty and faced with hard choices. Panel discussion on homelessness in Washtenaw County to follow. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. More info: www.whalliance.org, or call (734) 222-3575.

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To frack or not to frack? Controversial oil and gas development hits home

by Andrew Nixon
Associate Editor

Debate surrounding new oil and natural gas development in Michigan has heated up in recent months as controversial oil and natural gas development practices begin to take root throughout the state, and potentially come to Washtenaw County. In an age of ever-escalating energy prices, dwindling natural resources, mounting ecological woes, and increasingly uncertain economics, the stakes are high on all sides – citizens, environment, politicians and profiteers alike.

The intensifying debate over so-called “fracking” touches on so many key challenges of our time – from local jobs to global economics, from groundwater safety to global warming – that how this issue plays out may indeed be indicative of how we as a species adapt – or fail to adapt – to the realities of the 21st century.

Fracking, in current debate, refers to “induced hydraulic fracturing,” or simply “hydrofracking” – the modern technique of extracting oil or natural gas from hard formations, mostly shale layers. Large volumes of fracking fluid containing water, proppant (usually sand), and a variety of chemicals, is injected under extreme pressure and fissures created by the injected fluid create a new system of fractures, or “fracs,” in the rock, freeing fossil fuels that could not be accessed by traditional extraction techniques.

Strictly speaking, fracking has been around since the 1860s. However, hydrofracking, the technique currently under fire, is just 60 years old and only became profitable in the late 1990s. Since then, hydrofracking has been used to stimulate roughly a million oil and gas wells worldwide. Domestically, hydrofracking is considered by proponents to be a “game changer” for natural gas production in the United States, opening up for exploitation vast underground formations across the country that couldn’t be economically tapped before. According to the Energy Institute of the University of Texas-Austin, gas production from such newly feasible sources is on a sharp rise – it is anticipated to contribute nearly half of the U.S. natural gas supply by 2035.

In Michigan, a recent report by the House of Representatives Natural Gas Subcommittee confidently proclaimed that “a natural gas renaissance is upon us,” depicting further gas exploration in the state as essential to Michigan’s future economic wellbeing and energy security.

“[F]urther exploration will have numerous benefits to both Michigan and the United States by providing jobs and



lowering the cost of electricity, heat, and products. With a natural gas supply that will last nearly 100 years, long term price stability, reduced emissions, reliability and a domestic energy solution that will produce significant economic contributions, natural gas is a resource that Michigan should be investing in for future generations of energy consumption,” the report summarized.

Investment in the state’s fracking future has already begun to flow in. According to a study by the American Gas Alliance, \$859 million was spent in 2010 alone in Michigan on “unconventional gas” production, including hydrofracked fuel. That number is projected to hit \$1 billion before 2020.

So far, only 10 hydrofracking-stimulated wells have been completed in the state; two of them are already producing natural gas. That small handful of operations, however, could multiply rapidly, as “legislators and industry are quickly ramping up to drill thousands [of new wells] in the Lower Peninsula in the next few years,” according to Kurt Gleichman, a research engineer and Saline resident, who has been following the issue closely. In May, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) auctioned off the mineral rights to public lands in 23 counties. Now much of the Lower Peninsula stands to be fracked.

But not everyone is convinced that moving in this direction is a good idea. Gleichman is just one of a growing number of citizens who are deeply concerned about the potential flaws in fracking. Taking cues from grassroots anti-fracking movements elsewhere – bans or moratoriums on hydrofracking activity have been passed in the states of Vermont, New Jersey, and New York, as well as the nations of France and Bul-

garia) – organizers throughout Michigan are pushing for similar protections. This summer the citizen-led ballot initiative, the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, attempted unsuccessfully to collect enough signatures to get a state constitutional amendment prohibiting fracking onto this November’s election ballot. Undaunted, the group already is gearing up to ensure that the measure appears on the ballot in 2014.

“We knew we had to act to stop the toxic invasion about to devastate our

state. We will not recognize Michigan in a few years, if we do not ban fracking,” said LuAnne Kozma, Novi resident and co-founder of the non-profit public interest group Ban Michigan Fracking (BMF) in a May press release for the ballot committee.

Fracking opponents point to environmental health and safety issues documented at nearly every stage of the fracking process, from drilling the initial well shaft to the transportation and disposal of the typically millions of gallons of toxic fracking fluid “flowback” that results. Though research is still inconclusive, evidence exists connecting fracking to instances of groundwater contamination, land and air pollution, even minor earthquakes.

These “fraccidents,” such as the 2011 Bradford County, Pennsylvania spill in which 10,000 gallons of toxic fracking fluid backed up from a faulty well and overflowed onto the land, have led to numerous lawsuits against industry and government across the country, and in some cases resulted in tougher regulations. They also have inspired high-profile media coverage such as 2010’s *GasLand*, an Oscar-nominated documentary seeking to expose the dark side of the business of fracking. *Promised Land*, a new drama by

see FRACTURING, page 11



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Hydraulic fracturing: is it safe?

continued from page 10

famed Hollywood director Gus Van Sant and starring Matt Damon, examines the complex socioeconomic effects of fracking activity on a small, rural American town, and is scheduled for wide-release in January 2013. The emotional power of stories like these is undeniable: one segment in *GasLand* shows a resident who lives near a frack well turning on his kitchen faucet – and lighting it on fire.

In many respects, the risks of fracking are still poorly understood. An April 2011 Congressional Democrat report found that, to date, 2,500 fracking fluid additives containing over 750 different chemicals have been voluntarily disclosed by 14 companies. Twenty-nine of these are known carcinogens; many chemicals used have not even been tested for their toxicity; and an untold number of other chemicals do not get reported, due to the so-called “Halliburton Loophole,” a law embedded in the 2005 Bush/Cheney Energy Act that exempts natural gas drilling from the Safe Drinking Water Act and allowing companies to keep secret any information on proprietary chemicals used, thereby precluding any form of risk assessment. Earthjustice attorney Deborah Goldberg, in a much-publicized televised debate on the issue this past July, asserted, “We have no clue what [these chemicals] are going to do to our health or environment, in the short term or the long term.”

Apologists for fracking are quick to dismiss such sensational anecdotes as “flaming faucets” as misleading or even factually unsubstantiated. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director of the Office of Geological Survey, Harold Fitch, in a 2009 regulatory statement stated that “there is no indication that hydraulic fracturing has ever caused damage to ground water or other resources in Michigan.”



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There is one day that is ours.
Thanksgiving Day is the one
day that is purely American.

– O. Henry

Pro-fracking groups have responded to anti-fracking initiatives with information campaigns of their own, including a new documentary funded by the Independent Petroleum Association of America entitled *TruthLand*, which seeks to debunk the claims made in *GasLand*. The film and its official website look sleek and present carefully-cited data that would seem to dispel the doomsayings of fracking detractors.

In short, distinguishing fact from both the hype and the hysteria surrounding fracking is not an easy task. For one, it is virtually impossible for the layperson to know whose word to believe. “King CONG” (the collective coal-oil-nuclear-gas lobby) is notoriously skilled at turning even the oiliest proposition into holy scripture. Just two years since its Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which released as many as 5 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, oil giant British Petroleum is well on its way to refashioning its image as a “green” leader, as shown by a YouGov BrandIndex survey of public perceptions of 2012 Olympics sponsors.

According to Goldberg, “there are hundreds of millions of dollars being spent to ensure that this industry can continue to operate without the science and without the protections we need. As a result, what we are hearing now is not how we’re going to end our addiction to fossil fuels, but instead, ‘a hundred years of gas.’”

Another reason the truth about fracking remains unclear is that the science is complex and far from perfectly understood. Countering widely-circulating claims linking groundwater contamination to fracking, EPA administrator Lisa Jackson in April 2012

stated bluntly that “in no case have we made a definitive determination that the fracking process has caused chemicals to enter groundwater.”

Whether Jackson’s statement applies to *all* aspects of the fracking business or just the specific stage in the process properly called “fracking” remains unclear. What is clear, however, is that scientific understanding of fracking is sufficiently incomplete that statements like Jackson’s can be used to obfuscate rather than clarify the truth.

To address existing holes in the scientific data, in 2009 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the first national review of numerous fracking safety concerns. A progress report is expected to be issued before the end of this year, and a final report will be offered for peer review and public comment sometime in 2014.

Gleichman, for one, is optimistic that the information provided by the study will prove helpful. “I think the EPA is really one of our safety nets still. It seems that they’re pretty unbiased,” he said.

In the meantime, however, communities where fracking is more than a distant possibility – including here in Washtenaw County, where last November private oil and gas exploration company Paxton Resources LLC began approaching landowners about leasing mineral rights – will need to make decisions based on available information. Uncertain benefits will have to be weighed against uncertain risks.

Moreover, alternatives to the “*Drill, baby, drill*” scenario, too often depicted

by advocates as the one-and-only path to economic prosperity and energy-independence, need to be carefully considered before committing to an all-out fracking agenda. For instance, solar energy, once dismissed as a hippie fantasy, has become the fastest-growing job-creating sector in the United States, and “is fast becoming the most cost-effective and efficient form of electricity on Earth,” according to Danny Kennedy, author of *Rooftop Revolution: How Solar Power Can Save Our Economy – and Our Planet – from Dirty Energy*. Indeed, Kennedy asserts, one of the biggest reasons society is not aware of viable alternatives to fossil fuel exploration is the enormous amount of money King CONG pours into their “massive and consistent campaign to instigate fear, uncertainty, and doubt to make their case” against alternative energy strategies.

There is growing consensus that averting the worst consequences of climate change will necessarily involve a rapid transition from greenhouse gas-producing energy sources to clean, renewable ones. Above all, that means giving up our addiction to fossil fuels – including those acquired through fracking.

But what, precisely, are the alternatives to fracking?

Gleichman feels optimistic that, working together, citizens, policymakers, and industry can find a solution to the “dilemma of drilling” – but only if we start taking the gravity of the situation seriously.

“We’re going to have to continue with fossil fuels for a while; we can’t just stop immediately. But we’re not even *talking* about stopping – we are not even hearing our leaders talk about this,” Gleichman said.

“It starts with having the conversation.”

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The Honor Guard: paying last respects

by Lee Alexander

As the saying goes, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." Since 1923, the Marine Corps League has offered honorably discharged Marines the opportunity to socialize with fellow Marines and provide service in their community. Detachment 161, the David Murnighan Detachment, in Howell, maintains an honor guard that makes available funeral honors to veterans at Great Lakes National Cemetery. The detachment provides services to more than 275 veterans, from all branches, each year. During the holiday season, their annual Toys for Tots program distributes more than 4,000 packages to needy children. Groundcover salutes all of our Veterans. Thank You!



Clockwise from above: Taps at a funeral, Honor Guard at a serviceman's memorial, Detachment 161 at an area Memorial Day celebration.



Photos by Bill Brown & Lee Alexander. Cover image-Fred Koski... Semper Fi Fred!

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Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter - Cy Klone © 2012

That ominous music they keep playing is really annoying.

So is that announcer's scary voice.

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Sort of like how I can see you with my "help your poor helpless baby" cries?

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